

## What is Theology?

- God is with us, and God is for us
- Jesus is Lord - the Good News
- Proclamation of the Gospel
- Proclamation by Witnesses of every generation
- Heard and seen the work
- Telling of the work by words and deeds
- Service, Love, Worship, Martyrdom
- Connects to everything - effects everything
- The good news asks us to reconsider every new thing in its light
- Theology is taking time to reflect on the news
- Looking for connections between the connections and what we thought we already knew
- Time to think about it
- The work of theology takes time - reflection

Theological thinking is a practice. It requires time and attention to the thought and consideration of God and all things in relation to God.

## What is the root of Theology?

**Theos (God)+ Logos (word) In summary, Theology is God plus word.**

*The word made flesh in Jesus Christ. All words of God through scripture and promise. Theology seeks to consider and reflect on the word of God in our world and lives over time, in the present, and for the future.*

- Speech about God and all that is in relation to God
- A word about God and all things in relation to God
  - o Witness - Something we have to say about God
  - o Proclamation - A Word To God - Praise/Worship
  - o Doxology - a word of praise
  - o Revelation - bearing witness

Theology - Revelation, Doxology, Witness - speech in all that is in relation to God

## Who does theology?

- Anyone can do theology.
- Anyone can proclaim the word of God.
- Those who proclaim God in thoughts and deeds are doing theology.
- Even those outside the church can do the work of Christian theology.
  - o Christians have relied upon the writings of Jewish authors.
  - o Other faiths can help contribute to Christian theology.
  - o Even atheists can contribute to theology.
- The time to reflect and make connections is different than mere proclamation (worship).
- This is different that simply just worshipping God.
- The work can't be divorced from the church.
- It's news for all and about all.
- Submit to the news that Jesus is Lord.

All theology is practical. Makes a claim on how we practice as Christians. (in sync when reflecting on the Gospel)

## Theology

o We want to affirm that doing theology is also part of the work, but the reflective work is necessary to do theology.

### LIMITS

We are human beings. Some things we can not avoid in our limitations.

These limits are not bad things. They are limits in and of themselves because we are human.

### **Ktesiological (comes from Greek word that means creation)**

- o Creaturely limit - limit of our understanding
- o God is God and we are not.

### **Temporal limit**

- o Time limit - we would run out of time

### **Linguistic limit**

- o Limit of Human Speech limit
- o Some things are hard to say no matter what language we speak

### **Hamartiological limit**

- o Sin as a limit
- o Comprehensive by enhances the limit of understanding
- o Systemic and stubborn resistance to the truth
- o Interferes with our ability to say and speak what aligns with God
- o We are part of the rejection as much as we are part of the acceptance

### **Eschatological limit**

- o We are a pilgrim.
- o We are on the way.
- o We are still anticipating more to come.

### ***The Cross Tests Everything***

- o Christ himself is the measure of everything

*Christ has not disappeared but has ascended.* When we affirm the ascension we recognize we are still under the protection of Christ.

### ***Christ reigns!***

Theology is considered reflective speech:

- o About God and all things in relation to God
- o Rooted in scriptures proclamation of the Gospel
- o Consonant with the worship, words, and lives with those who have proclaimed the Gospel
- o Considerate of the poor
- o Measured according to Jesus Christ (God's word to us, among us, and above us)